

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-33 and 38-54 are pending.

Applicants rephrase claim 1 to recite “a process for production of a microporous affinity membrane” that comprises in part, “plasma ignition in the presence of a gas mixture comprising at least one modifying gas, wherein the modifying gas comprises at least one functional group,” such that the at least one functional group is “regioselectively bound to pore surfaces of the microporous affinity membrane substrate.” This amendment is supported by claim 1 as originally filed, and by the application as a whole. (See the specification at page 9, line 27, to page 10, line 3, for example.)

Applicants amend claim 7 to replace “hydroxi acid” with “hydroxy.” This change is supported by the application as a whole, including original claim 7 and the specification at page 9, line 36, to page 10, line 3, for example.

Applicants also amend claims 7, 8, 12, 38, and 40 to remove unnecessary words. Those changes are also supported by the application as a whole. (See, for example, the specification at page 9, line 27, to page 10, line 3, and at page 11, lines 8-18.)

In summary, all of the amendments presented herein are directed to matters of form. Hence, the re-phrasing of claims 1, 7, 8, 12, and 40 does not narrow the scope of any of the pending claims or insert new matter. (See M.P.E.P. § 2163.07(l).)

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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